

Regular Board of Education Meeting – Approved Minutes
February 20, 2019, 7:00 p.m.
Town Hall Meeting Room

Present Board Members: Jenny Emery, Mark Fiorentino (via telephone), Lynn Guelzow, Melissa Migliaccio, Sarah Thrall, Rosemarie Weber, Brandon Webster, and Maddy Wilson (Student Representative)

Absent Board Members: Dwaritha Ramesh (Student Representative)

Melissa Migliaccio called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

I. Administrative Reports

I.A. Superintendent's Announcements

- Good evening and welcome back from the break.
- Received a copy of the NEAS&C report. Mr. Dunn, High School Principal, will be invited to make a presentation to the Board on the significant recommendations. Still waiting for the accreditation status.
- Tomorrow 8th graders will participate in NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress) testing for Math and Language Arts.
- Still awaiting the school performance index from the Department of Education for last year.
- SEIU negotiations will be held next Thursday at 5:00 p.m.
- The GEF sponsored Boogie Chillun' for middle school students was held last week. This was a musical performance with a focus on American roots music.
- PAC Meetings for the middle going forward will be held at 8:30 a.m.
- CPPAC will meet on February 27th at 7 p.m.
- A meeting was held this morning with Northeast Collaborative Architects and departments at the high school regarding the high school facility project.
- CABE Day on the Hill will be held on Wednesday, March 20th.
- Kindergarten registration is holding at 93 with 100 students projected.
- YMCA is still finalizing the proposal for before- and after-school care.
- Granby/Canton football coop is still alive. Met with the Superintendent with regard to financials and contributions they would make to the program.
- A new teacher mid-year celebration will be held on February 27th at Abigail's from 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- A Superintendent's Forum will be held tomorrow evening to discuss budget issues, priorities moving forward, start time, and large capital projects.
- A report for the start study came in from Hanover Research and it is interesting reading.
- Thank you to emergency personnel in town for participating in a planning/reflection meeting before the break.
- Three emergency days have been used thus far. June 13th (Thursday) is currently last day of school.
- The Administrative Budget will be presented on March 6th. A reminder the Board will receive the budget that evening.
- The Governor's budget was presented today. Some items include 25% of teachers pensions coming back to the town; ECS for Granby is down \$254K but total educational funding would be an increase of \$466K over FY19; small school consolidation; and, minimum budget requirement relief for towns that came together for regionalization.

I.B. Student Representative Reports

- Seniors are still busy applying to colleges.
- Students registered for AP exams last week.
- The annual Coffeehouse will be held this Saturday at 7:00 p.m. A lot of talent will be showcased.
- Rehearsals for the musical, *Grease*, are going great. Performances are March 15th-17th.
- Winter sports are underway.
- Singing valentines went well before the break. This is a fundraiser for the arts.

I.C. Business Manager's Report

Ms. Anna Robbins, Business Manager, presented the January statement of accounts and stated as of January 31st, there is an unfavorable forecast of \$487K. Special education expenditures are unfavorable \$666K and regular education expenditures are favorable \$179K. The increase in the unfavorable forecast for special education is the net of an additional outplacement and the reduction in services due to a change in status of another student. The deadline for closing purchase orders for the general fund is March 1st. The Q&D fund shows an unfavorable forecast of \$7,600 which is slightly better than last month due to a savings in magnet school tuition. Excess cost funding to the town shows a positive forecast of \$133K. Anticipated revenue has been adjusted to show two additional students, one from Hartland and one from East Granby. The overall forecast for revenue is favorable and has increased by \$55K this month to \$294K. An additional \$600K in ECS funding will be received directly by the town. Overall the town is expected to receive \$894K in additional education funding against a forecasted deficit of \$487K. Jenny Emery stated this was reviewed by the Finance Subcommittee this evening.

II. Public Comment

There were no public comments this evening.

III. Consent Agenda

III.A. Minutes

A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Brandon Webster to adopt the consent agenda. This motion passed at 7:11 p.m. with two abstentions (Melissa Migliaccio and Jenny Emery).

IV. Old Business

IV.A. Third Reading and Approval of Policy 6146 - Graduation Requirements

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee recommended Policy 6146, Graduation Requirements (with revisions), to the Board for a third reading and approval. A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Sarah Thrall that the Granby Board of Education adopt Policy 6146, Graduation Requirements, as presented by the Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee. This motion passed unanimously at 7:12 p.m.

IV.B. Elementary School Improvement Plan Updates

Ms. Kimberly Dessert, Kelly Lane Principal, and Dr. Anna Forlenza-Bailey, Wells Road Intermediate School Principal, shared updates on their respective School Improvement Plans with the Board. Ms. Dessert reviewed the Vision, Mission and District Achievement Goal: There is a decrease chronic absenteeism by 10% in all subgroups. The social worker has been a huge benefit to Kelly Lane increase in percentage for Hartford families. Student Achievement Goal: The SRBI team created a new schedule this year who meet every 6 weeks to review student data. Instructional Goal: Work coaches have done this year has benefitted teachers with their learning walks. Melissa Migliaccio inquired how many coaches there are at Kelly Lane. Ms. Dessert stated there are 3 coaches - Literacy, Math and Science. Sarah Thrall inquired how many teachers have had an opportunity to work with a coach. Ms. Dessert stated approximately 50%. Jenny Emery inquired if the decrease in office referrals is due to managing behavior and how is that balanced. Ms. Dessert stated each student is looked at as an individual case and parents are communicated with about their child.

Dr. Forlenza-Bailey presented updated to her School Improvement Plan for Wells Road. For the Vision, Mission and District Achievement Goal: Office referrals between white and non-white students are being looked at and are moving in the right direction with a decrease in white students from 8% to 6% and non-white students 27% to 19% compared to last year's data. Student Achievement Goal: SBAC results have not yet been received but teachers are continuing to progress monitor and review those results with teachers using STAR data. Instructional Goal: Students are taking ownership for their learning. Dr. Bailey reported on coaches and enrichment coach data. There was an increase from 12 to 14 students in 3rd grade who meet with the enrichments coach; 4th grade increased 13 to 21 students; 5th grade increased by 4; and, 4 students have moved into an accelerated curriculum in math.

IV.C. FY20 Budget

The Board discussed the preliminary FY20 Budget. Dr. Addley stated the budget presentation is a little over two weeks away. Typically, at this time, we re-run special education based on the latest information we have. Unfortunately, this worked against us because it went \$270K above the Plus One Budget. An additional TA was hired which is now 8 added to the budget which will need to be carried over for next year. There was a meeting of the Health Committee in town and 6% was built into the Plus One but we were initially advised on 3%. It has turned out we are now at 15.9% in health benefits and one of the main reasons is a miscalculation of a little over \$400K deposit that came from general fund to offset expenses in 2017-2018. The committee will reconvene again on Friday morning to make a final decision but this is currently a \$287K expense. The Plus One went from 4.83% to 6.79% and now we need to cut \$807K from the budget to get to 4%. This will not be done easily by any means and will be a significant challenge. Dr. Addley stated he does not feel he can raid the Q&D fund but will try to do as is always done and be creative. Jenny Emery inquired if the reserves are being considered when looking at the health benefits. Dr. Addley stated, yes, the reserves have been utilized and there is an understandable concern with going much further than that. Brandon Webster inquired if Gallagher had a good reason for undershooting the estimate significantly. Dr. Addley stated not really. It is unfortunate but it is the second time this has happened. Lynn Guelzow inquired if Dr. Addley knew anything about a 30% cut in Open choice funding. Dr. Addley stated he had not seen that cut.

V. New Business

V.A. Indoor Air Quality Report

Mr. Shannon Sullivan, Director of Facilities, presented the Indoor Air Quality Report to the Board and reviewed some of the requirements, such as, school buses should not idle more than 3 minutes due to emissions; pesticides should not be used unless it is an emergency and parents need to be notified; Tools for Schools (EPA's evaluation system) is used where feedback from the staff is received and put into the work order system; green cleaning requires all chemicals to be labeled and listed on the website as well as where they are used; carbon monoxide detectors; DEEP recycling regulation; and, asbestos regulations. He shared a picture of the website and where all of the documents are stored for parents and the public access. Indoor air quality surveys were sent out regarding general cleanliness, moisture in classrooms, ventilation, etc.

V.B. First Reading of Draft Policy 5141.34, Section 504

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communication Subcommittee recommended Policy 5141.34, Section 504, to the Board for a first reading. Christopher Tranberg stated this policy is moving from the 3000 series to the 5000 series per advice from counsel. It is a replacement policy which has been completely changed because our due process was not clear and seemingly directed parents to go to the Board. Melissa Migliaccio inquired why the policy is being moved to the 5000 series. Mr. Tranberg stated because the 3000 series category is Business and the 5000 series category is Students. The policy number came from CABE.

V.C. First Reading of Revised Policy 4111/4211, Hiring of Staff

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communication Subcommittee recommended Policy 4111/4211, Hiring of Staff, to the Board for a first reading. Rosemarie Weber stated this policy was revised to account for hiring back retirees and puts restrictions on the hiring back retirees. Mr. Tranberg stated additional language was added about the hiring of minority teachers which was included under the recruitment section.

V.D. Three-Board Memorandum of Understanding

The Board discussed the proposal by the Capital Program Priority Advisory Committee to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) limiting future increases to the mill rate. Melissa Migliaccio stated CPPAC has been a long-standing committee in town and encompasses large capital projects such as bridges and large school projects. In order for the three boards to show their support for a Statement of Intent, CPPAC approved a MOU unanimously last night. Signing the Statement of Intent will make a statement to do our best to keep mill rate increases to a minimum. Jenny Emery stated three projects are going forward as a package: bridges, solar and the high school facility upgrade. She spoke about the financial model and stated it is generally a very conservative model. The assumptions include a 4% target operating budget for the BOE this year and 3% in subsequent years along with actually floating the bonds and taking on the debt with mill rate increase in the +/- 2% range. Ms. Emery stated she is in favor of the Statement of Intent. Lynn Guelzo

stated her concern is the Statement of Intent ties the Board's hands in getting stuck with high payments which happened years ago. Mark Fiorentino stated at the end of the day it is a restatement of what is already being done with a goal to keep the mill rate 2% or below. Ms. Migliaccio urged the Board to sign the Statement of Intent. This would be signed by all Boards and approved at the 3-board meeting on March 4th. Mike Guarco BOF Chair stated the history of CPPAC goes back to the 1970s/1980s which were different times. The Statement affirms what we are looking to do and what we expect the numbers to be. The numbers that are there will work except for what the State can do to Granby. Two major impacts are the health benefits and special education. Mr. Guarco feels it is important to sign and speak to the public about the projects and to make the assumptions clear. A motion was made by Melissa Migliaccio and seconded by Jenny Emery that the Granby Board of Education accept the Memorandum of Understanding executed by CPPAC on February 19, 2019. This motion passed unanimously at 8:11 p.m.

VI. Miscellaneous

VI.A. Board Standing Committee Reports

VI.A.1. Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communication

This subcommittee has not met.

VI.A.2. Finance/Personnel/Facilities

Jenny Emery reported this subcommittee met this evening and discuss a lot of what was discussed here tonight. Reviewed the plans for the vestibule at the high school using the security grant. The consultant has been engaged for that project. Reviewed the heating oil and fuel bill for Kelly and Wells. The rate came in lower than last year.

VI.B. Other Board-Related Reports

VI.B.1. CREC/CABE

Jenny reported she attended the CREC Council Meeting today and will share the notes she took. A proposal on special education that moves the bar a little bit was discussed as well as pension cost shifting.

VI.B.2. Granby Education Foundation

Alan Addley reported the last meeting was cancelled.

VI.B.3. Start Time Study

Lynn Guelzow reported the next meeting is on Monday evening.

VI.C. Calendar of Events

The calendar of events is as presented.

VI.D. Board Member Announcements

Melissa Migliaccio thanked the Board for their condolences on behalf of her father-in-law's recent passing.

VI.E. Action Items

There were no action items this evening.

VII. Executive Session/Non-Meeting

A motion was made by Melissa Migliaccio and seconded by Rosemarie Weber to adjourn the regular meeting and enter into an Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining agreements. This motion passed unanimously at 8:14 p.m.